



WINTER 2013



Lighting the pathways that lead to home

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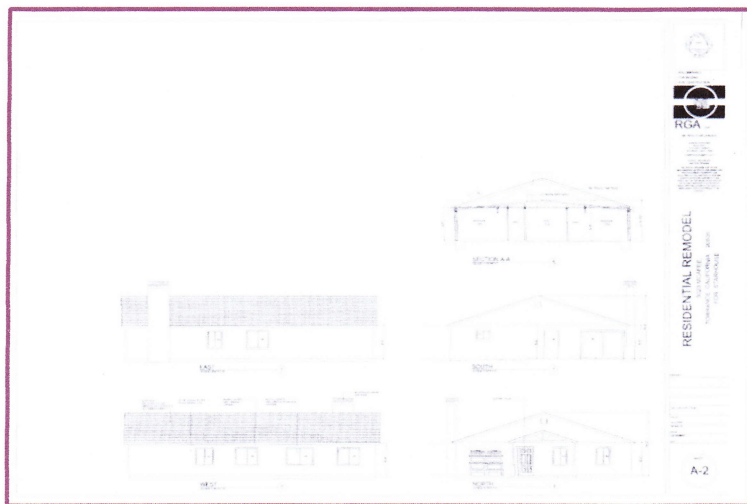


Happy Holidays! And a joyful Fa, la, la to one and all. Hope you are finding time during this busy season to enjoy being with family and friends as you celebrate this wonderful season. The year simply flew by. Soon 2013 will be a memory. Before we celebrate the coming of 2014, we thought we would share a few of the highlights from our year here at STAR.

STAR House 3 Update

STAR House 3 Update

What an exciting year it has been for our organization! As you probably already know, in November of 2012 STAR closed escrow on its third property! With advancements in medical treatments and greater knowledge regarding preventive care, most individuals are enjoying longer life spans, and our residents are no exception.



Unfortunately, the need greatly exceeds the availability of placements in housing options with not only the increased care required by these aging individuals, but also opportunities for personal growth, community involvement, and interaction with peers. It is with these issues in mind that STAR forges ahead in the development of its third home to provide this type of specialized care for seniors within the population which we currently serve.

To that end, 2013 certainly has been a busy year! The plans for the renovations are complete and have been approved by the City of Torrance. We accepted bids from several contractors and the Board of Directors carefully considered each before coming to a collective decision. In addition, we have procured all necessary permits from the City, and construction is currently underway.

Over the years, your continued support has assisted STAR and its residents in achieving the unimaginable. The road ahead, however, will be long, winding, and filled with obstacles for our small, grass-roots organization. While we have succeeded in purchasing the property for our third home and raising most of the funding required for renovations, there are still post-construction costs to consider as well. Once the reconstruction is complete, STAR will face a new set of challenges. Prior to obtaining a license for the home and accepting residents, STAR must purchase all furnishings for the home as well as a vehicle capable of transporting non-ambulatory residents. We must also vet and hire all staff, and we are required to amass three months of operating reserves before a license will be granted.

Challenges aside, we at STAR are thrilled to have the opportunity to completely redesign and renovate this home to meet the specific needs of our aging residents and, more broadly, to meet the needs of the most compromised individuals within the intellectually and developmentally disabled population. It is our most sincere hope that we can count on your support to assist us in writing the next chapter in STAR's history. One thing is certain; we couldn't have come this far without you!

The STAR House residents would like you to know what they have done this past year thanks to your help and support. Their calendar is filled with so many activities and wonderful events such as: Attending the Tournament of Roses Parade; going to Winter & Summer Camp; participating in Special Olympics and other sports events, dining and dancing with our community groups; taking part in golf tournaments—just to name a few. Some of the ladies from Caribou House appeared on the Channel 5 Morning News. And something many of us wish we could do—especially during this time of the year—our residents flew to the North Pole!



As you can see, our residents are very fortunate to be a part of such a warm and caring community of friends. With the year 2013 coming to a close, we want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continuing support and generosity. A special "Thank You" to the following supporters:

- ☆ The Ahmanson Foundation
- ☆ Annabel Branigan
- ☆ Carl E. Wynn Foundation
- ☆ Celia Mignucci
- ☆ David Poiry & D. Diane Anderson
- ☆ John Gogian Family Foundation
- ☆ Chief Rey Rojo-LAFD
- ☆ Manhattan Beach
Knights of Columbus
- ☆ Order Sons of Italy in America
Centinela Valley Lodge #1991
- ☆ Palos Verdes Resale
- ☆ Sandpipers
- ☆ Sertoma of Torrance
- ☆ So. Redondo Knights of
Columbus
- ☆ St. Lawrence Martyr Golf Club
- ☆ St. John Fisher Church
- ☆ Theresa Vicelia



Earlier this year, Board Members, Pam Broderick and Mary Grace Grammatico (in front row,) attended the Annenberg Alchemy Class. This free, capacity-building, leadership-development program is sponsored by the Annenberg Foundation and is designed to strengthen and aid in the sustainability of Los Angeles County-based nonprofits. What an enlightening and exciting experience!



Remembering When...



This picture was taken at STAR's 20th Anniversary Celebration on Oct. 8, 1994. In the front row are Tess Wiater, Maxine Ulibari, and Sylvia Gallegos. In the back row are Opal Rich, Joe Jones, Connie Poiry, Joe Conlin and Ken Poiry. One of the highlights of this lovely evening was the official renaming of STAR House 1 as the STAR/Ben Scalabrini House.

-3-

On the 25th of May, our friends at the Centinela Valley Lodge held their 64th Anniversary celebration. This year their honoree was STAR's very own Pam Broderick. (Pictured here with



her husband, Sean.) What a fabulous evening this was for both the Lodge and for Pam, as many of her family members, friends, and STAR members were in attendance to see the tribute the Centinela Valley Lodge paid to this most-deserving lady. We invite you to join us on Facebook to see pictures and view the videos from that beautiful evening.



Once again, Dr. Akihiro Taniguchi brought visitors to tour STAR/Caribou House. Dr. Taniguchi is a Professor of the Achy Skukutoku University in Kyoto, Japan, a Doctor of the Social Welfare Course, and is engaged in developing the medical and social welfare programs for individuals who are physically and mentally disabled. A special thank-you to Mr. Shige Yoshida for his assistance in coordinating this exchange and in communicating with our honored guests. It is always a pleasure to welcome Dr. Taniguchi and his guests, and we look forward to his return.



We take a moment to remember those friends that we have loved and lost—those, whose memories not only inspire us, but serve as a reason to do our best to continue their work.

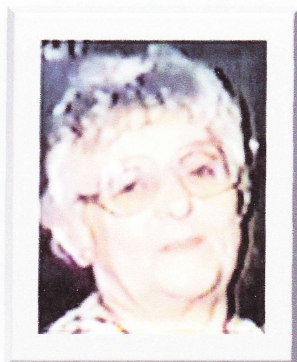
Eleanor Helen Wiater



In January 2013, Eleonor "Tess" Wiater died peacefully at her home in Rolling Hills, CA. As a registered nurse, she served in the Army Nurse Corps during World War II. She was married to the love of her life, Dr. Ed Wiater, for 60 years and they were devoted parents to their three children. Tess was an accomplished tennis player and was a nationally ranked senior competitor. This special lady earned our love and respect because of her dedication to the human spirit. The people she helped, the causes she supported, the organizations she founded are many. Her journey with STAR started as one of the founding members almost 40 years ago. She was a gift from the heavens to STAR to help us understand what love, friendship and goodness were all about.



Sylvia Gallegos



In May of this year, we also lost a dear friend, Sylvia Gallegos. Sylvia served as a member of the Board of Directors of STAR. She held the positions of Vice President and Treasurer, as well as Membership and Publicity Chairperson. As a single mother of seven children, she was a woman filled with hope and courage. Having a very special daughter herself, she shared her kind and compassionate nature for others through her work with STAR. Sylvia was employed with the Federal Government for 40 years. After she retired, she moved to Arizona with her daughter, Marsha, where she remained connected to STAR. With Sylvia's passing, earth has lost a gentle soul, but heaven has gained an angel.



Deane W. Haddon

In September of this year, STAR and the Sertomas lost a dear friend, Deane W. Haddon of Torrance, California. Our deepest sympathy to his wife, Barbara, and to the Haddon Family. STAR was introduced to this kind and caring man through our association with the Sertomas.





IT IS BETTER TO GIVE **AND** TO RECEIVE

Many of us strive to live by the creed, "it is better to give than to receive." However, it might be even better to give *and* receive -- especially when you receive a tax benefit for your good works! Through the planning and budgeting of your charitable contributions (just as you do your savings and spending,) you can ultimately be more generous over your lifetime (and after). So consider some charitable-giving strategies that could improve your financial planning:

1. A gift to STAR through your will or living trust of a specific amount, a percentage of your estate or all or a portion of what is left after first providing for loved ones.
2. By naming STAR to receive all or a portion of the remainder of retirement plan accounts that would be subject to taxes if received by heirs.
3. By providing for a gift to STAR from the proceeds of life insurance policies no longer needed for their original purpose.

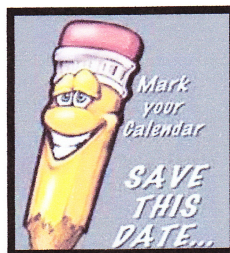


One of STAR's longtime members, Mary Pratola of Avondale, Pennsylvania, sent us this picture of her tree decorated with the STAR ornaments she has collected since STAR's annual holiday mailing first began. For those on

our mailing list, your holiday ornament should have arrived! If someone you know would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact the STAR office. Be assured your addresses are kept private and are not shared with any other organization or individuals. -5-



Votes from the dedicated volunteers at Palos Verdes Resale continue to support the STAR homes. Please consider volunteering. Now is the perfect time to take a trip to the store for some unique holiday gifts. PV Resale is located at 2321 Pacific Coast Hwy., Lomita, CA 90717 (Between Crenshaw Blvd. and Narbonne Ave.) (310) 534-1722. For more information, please visit their website: www.palosverdesresale.com.



**The Sertoma of
Torrance Annual Golf
Tournament and
Dinner will be held
on
Friday, May 30, 2014**

**STAR, Inc. Newsletter Winter 2013
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Stay involved all year @

Website: www.star-homes.org

Facebook: www.star-homes.org/Starhouses

We feel so blessed to have such wonderful staff members who care deeply about all of the residents of the STAR Homes. Their patience and kindness are virtues contributing to the success of our program. **Thank you for your invaluable dedication to our mission at STAR.....**

Pamela Broderick	28 years
Suzanne Puente	17 years
Erin Behare	8 years
Alexis Blackwell	1 year
Susie Nunez	12 years
Chris Moody	5 years
Brigida Maradiaga	8 years
Linda Barker	20 years
June Fukahara	5 years
Classie Harris	3 years

Special Thanks to Lori Scarpo our Personal Fitness Trainer and Rhoda Hornback, Newsletter Publication.



We would also like to extend our **"Thanks"** to our Board of Directors for their support throughout the year.....

David Yates, Chairman of the Board

David has been an active member of The Torrance Sertoma organization for many years and instrumental in planning their annual golf tournament. His daughter currently resides at STAR 2/Caribou House.

Thomas Mullen, Chairman of the Board Emeritus

Tom retired from Dart Industries, Inc. in 1982. He owned Thomas Mullen & Company until 1988. Currently he donates much of his time volunteering at P.V. Resale. Tom and his wife, Betty, are two of the original founders of STAR.

Mary Grace Grammatico, Treasurer

Raised in the South Bay area, Mary Grace has been employed by the Wiseburn SD, Hawthorne, CA since 1995. A previous Lodge Queen and Recording Secretary, Mary is a member of the Torrance Centinela Valley Lodge Order Sons of Italy in America. An active Board member for several year, Mary's mother was a member of

STAR since its inception and her brother was the first resident of STAR 1/Ben Scalabrini House.

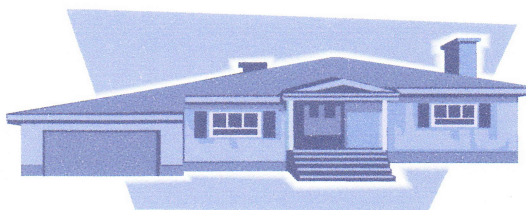
Karen Shimbabukuro, Vice President

A graduate of University of Michigan, Karen was employed by Chapman College. She devotes countless hours to volunteering in the P.V. Resale Thrift Store on behalf of STAR and has been invaluable in contributing to the success of STAR's various fundraising efforts. Her daughter currently resides at STAR 2/Caribou House.

Theresa Mossberg, Secretary

Terry spent the better part of her career working for American Airlines. In 1993 she became very involved in STAR, devoting a great deal of time working at P.V. Resale on our behalf and contributing to the overall success of our fundraising efforts. Her daughter currently resides at STAR 2/Caribou House.

SHARE our Annual Newsletter via e-mail with friends and family ... Contact the Newsletter staff, Facebook page www.star-homes.org/Starhouses or our Website www.star-homes.org. for assistance/ additional information. Keep "lighting the pathways that lead to home".



In August 2013 STAR partnered with The John Gogian Family Foundation to raise funds needed to launch the renovation projects for STAR House 3. The Foundation would match every dollar raised until December 15th, 2013, up to \$50,000.

"Thank you" to everyone who so generously contributed to this effort. The goal of \$50,000 was reached and matched by The Foundation.

A very heartfelt "Thank You" to the John Gogian Family Foundation for sharing our vision.

